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Senate

CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGETOWN FIRE COMPANY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Georgetown Fire Company. Founded in 1903, the Georgetown Fire Company is only one of fifteen Delaware fire companies to achieve a century or more of service a testament of the hard work and dedication of those who have been part of this venerable organization.

Several fire companies in Delaware, particularly around rural communities, were formed in the wake of disasters. That was the case for nearby Milton, which founded its fire company in 1901. But residents and town leaders in Georgetown formed their own fire company before a major fire broke out.

On April 11, 1903, the commissioners of the Town of Georgetown advised the town's people by posting in the local newspaper, The Sussex Journal, that there would be a meeting that evening for the purpose of creating a fire company. In this posting, they stated that the formation of a fire company would decrease the cost of fire insurance within the town. There were fourteen charter members of the Georgetown Fire Company. Until that day,

the community had relied solely on so-called bucket brigades and a hand-drawn ladder wagon.

Today, the fire company owns the most modern of technology and firefighting equipment, and what started off as a small squad of locals with minimal training has evolved into a company that today has almost 100 members, 50 of whom are active. The remaining members are life members, limited service members or honorary members, all of whom continue to help protect Georgetown. Originally located in the old fire hall building on The Circle in 1930, they moved to their new building on South Bedford Street in 1966. There, the doors are opened one evening each February for an annual fundraiser for the fire company, the legendary ``Oyster Eat," which attracts people from throughout the Delmarva peninsula and beyond.

I rise today to recognize all the members of the Georgetown Fire Company, past and present, and their contributions to their beloved community. This is a historic event, especially for a non-profit organization based solely on volunteerism. I congratulate you all and thank you for your service to the

people of Georgetown and to all of Southern
Delaware.